IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 3, as follows.

Instant messaging systems, for example, such as those offered by America Online (AOL), typically provide a mechanism for determining whether a message recipient is present. The presence information allows the recipient of an instant message to determine whether the sender of the instant message is currently available to receive additional instant messages. The presence information is generally determined based on user login activity (e.g., whether the user is currently logged on to the AOL service). Presence information based solely on login activity, however, can grow stale over time, since a user may remain logged in to an application for several days at a time. Thus, many systems supplement the user login activity with other determinable user activity, such as ~~such as~~ keyboard or mouse activity and whether a user remains idle for a time period exceeding a specified interval. Thus, existing presence awareness systems can distinguish between a user who is connected to the service (present) or not connected to the service (absent), and most systems allow some sort of busy or unavailable flag to be set. For example, some presence awareness systems have been extended to allow a user to affirmatively provide a personalized text message indicating his or her current availability, such as "out to lunch," or "in a meeting."

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 17, as follows.

The converted presence information can be analyzed, for example, by a text analysis engine 240 to identify events affecting the presence status of a user on one or more associated devices 110, 130 or applications. As discussed further below, the text analysis engine 240 can operate with a programmable interface 230 to recognize ~~to recognize~~ certain keywords that determine the presence of the user in accordance with user-specified rules. For example, a user can specify a rule stating that the user is busy during lunch. Thus, the text analysis engine 240 will monitor the presence information received from the various presence data stores 210, such as calendar applications, to determine if the user has specified a "lunch" time on a given day.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 30, as follows.

In most systems, a user receives a notification when a new user wants to receive their presence information. This requires an explicit action each time a user wants to reject the subscription of another user to their information. In an enterprise setting, this may not be appropriate. An ACL

system is used that allows only those users and groups to receive information for which this permission had been initially granted. Users can, if they desire, toggle this setting so that everyone gets their presence information except those who are explicitly listed as people who should not be permitted access to such data, in a known manner. For a group, the ACL list is used to indicate who is allowed to join the group. The member list is a list of those users who have actually joined the group. A group may be ~~are~~ open for anyone to join or may have a list of people who are allowed to join; yet everyone on the list may not elect to join the group. Groups can also have a separate subscription list.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 10, as follows.

FIG. 4 is a sample table from an exemplary presence database 400 maintained by the presence server 300. As indicated above, the presence database 400 maintains information for each user in the community, including the availability of each user to receive messages. As shown in FIG. 4, the presence database 400 includes a plurality of records, such as record 410, each associated with a different user. For each user, identified, for example, by name in field 430, the presence database 400 indicates the user's presence in field 440, corresponding device address and capabilities in fields 450 and 460, respectively, and the user's voice mailbox in field 470. The presence entry in field 440 indicates whether the user is present at a given device registered for the user. The device address in field 450 indicates the address of each device that is available for receiving messages for the user. The address can be any location or connection means, such as a telephone number or URL, for example. The device capability in field 460 indicates the capability of the device, such as whether the device is text or voice or video capable (or some combination of the foregoing), including email and fax capable devices. Finally, the voice mailbox in field 470 indicates the address of the voice mailbox for the user.